

HOLMLEIGH PARK
HIGH SCHOOL

HOLMLEIGH PARK SIXTH FORM

COURSE INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 2027

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to our prospectus, and to tell you a little about Holmleigh Park Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form is extremely ambitious, and we offer a balance of challenge and support which ensures all students can progress on to top universities or competitive apprenticeships.

Our three principles – Work Hard, Be Kind, Take Responsibility – ensure that Sixth Form students are not just academically successful, but leave as ambitious, confident and successful young adults with the highest standards of integrity.

I look forward to welcoming you to Holmleigh Park.



Dan Hudson • Headteacher

OUR SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form is the pinnacle of the school, and represents the gateway between Holmleigh Park and the wider world. We provide an excellent opportunity for you to develop your talents and abilities and to support your future aspirations.

As a Sixth Form, we are a close-knit community with outstanding individual support. We offer you a range of courses to suit your ambitions, and to ensure you have the best possible chance of success.

We welcome visits to look round the school at any time, and I look forward to meeting you in person.

Catherine Marsden-Green • Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form



"THE FACILITIES AT HOLMLEIGH PARK ARE **SUPERB** – BOTH FOR WORKING AND FOR **EXTRA-CURRICULAR** ACTIVITIES.

YEAR 13 STUDENT

OUR VALUES

Everything we do at Holmleigh Park is based on our three principles: Work Hard, Be Kind, Take Responsibility. We believe students who embody these principles will not only be successful at school, but will go on to lead more fulfilled lives and make positive contributions to society.

These principles are reflected in our high standards. We ask a great deal of our students: to work hard in every minute of every lesson, to be polite and considerate and to throw themselves into the school's extra-curricular life. In return, we offer challenging lessons which follow a world-class curriculum, a warm pastoral system which looks after every child, and a range of extra-curricular activities to encourage students to try new experiences and step beyond their comfort zones.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Year 12 students have the option to choose three subjects over two years. The subjects are listed below.

All qualifications are fully recognised by universities and carry UCAS points, enabling students to progress to university or directly into apprenticeships.

Students may choose three A Levels, three Extended Certificates, or a combination.

To study three A Levels, the entry criteria is five grade 5+ GCSEs including Mathematics and English Language (subject specific requirements are detailed within the subject information).
To study three Extended Certificates, the entry criteria is five grade 4+ GCSEs including Mathematics or English Language (subject specific requirements are detailed within the subject information).

A Level

A Levels are assessed primarily by terminal examination (small proportion of coursework in some subjects).

Extended Certificates (BTEC/Cambridge Technical)

These qualifications are equivalent to one A Level. A larger proportion of the qualification is non-examined assessment (coursework) than A Levels.

A Levels		Extended Certificate Subjects
• Art	• Mathematics	• Applied Science
• Biology	• Further Mathematics	• Art & Design
• Chemistry	• Media	• Business Studies
• Computer Science	• Photography	• Creative Digital Media Production
• English Language	• Physical Education	• Information Technology
• English Literature	• Physics	• Performing Arts
• Environmental Science	• Politics	• Sports Studies
• French	• Psychology	
• Geography	• Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	
• History	• Spanish	

For information about the application and enrolment process, please see the back of this booklet.

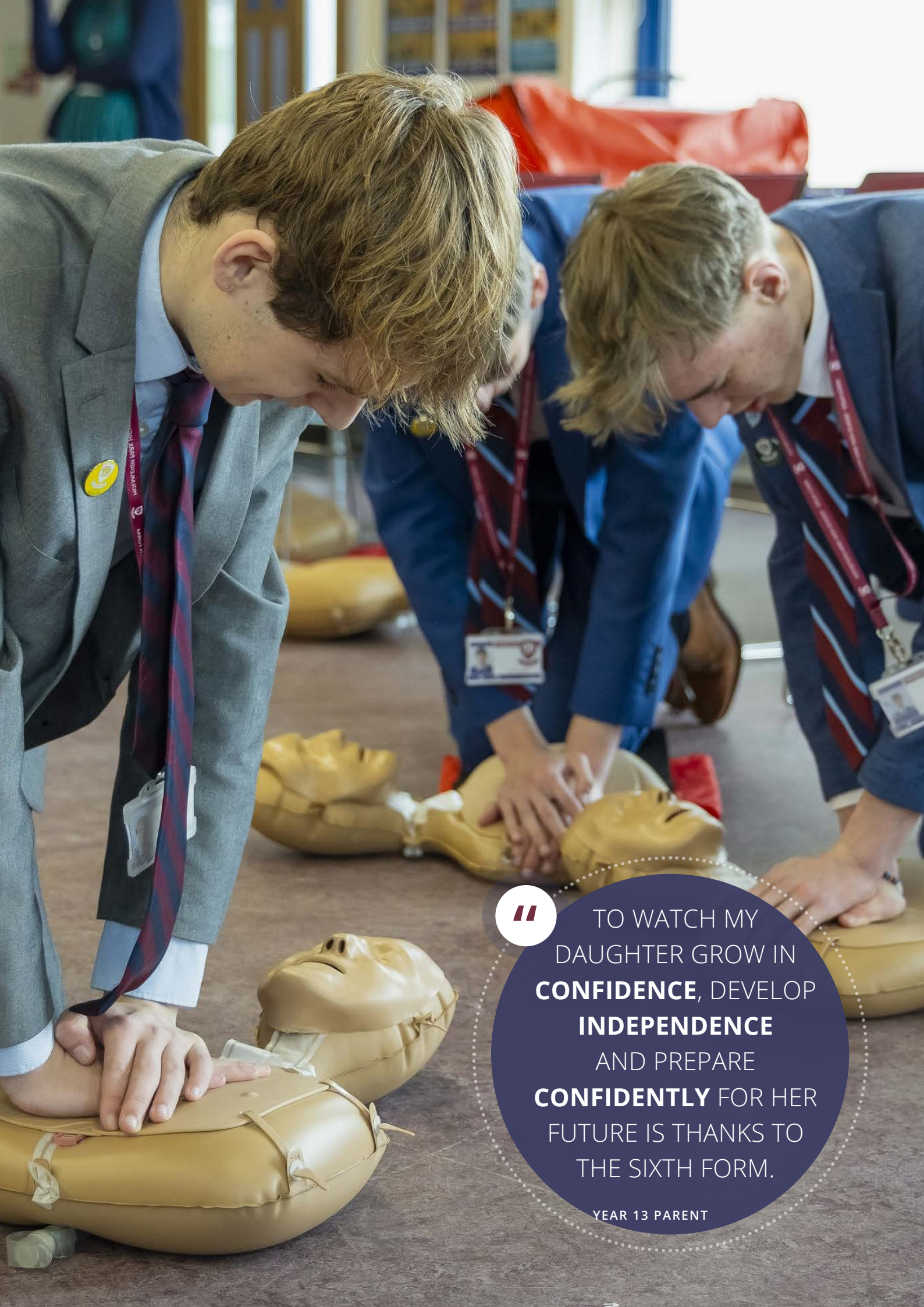


HOLMLEIGH PARK
HIGH SCHOOL

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THE SIXTH FORM IS BIG ENOUGH TO OFFER A **WIDE RANGE** OF COURSES, BUT SMALL ENOUGH THAT WE STILL FEEL LIKE **INDIVIDUALS.**

YEAR 12 STUDENT



"TO WATCH MY DAUGHTER GROW IN **CONFIDENCE**, DEVELOP **INDEPENDENCE** AND PREPARE **CONFIDENTLY** FOR HER FUTURE IS THANKS TO THE SIXTH FORM.

YEAR 13 PARENT

Applied Science
Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ)

What is the course about?

Applied Science AAQ is a Level 3 qualification (equivalent to one A Level) that focuses on the application of biology, chemistry, and physics. This course offers students opportunities to develop professional and practical skills through conducting experiments and research, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding of the biological, chemical and physical principles that underpin these skills. Students will learn, develop and practise laboratory techniques while gaining an understanding of the different types of scientific industries and settings.

This course combines external exams with internal coursework and prepares students for higher education or careers in science-related sectors, such as nursing, allied health, or research.

Course content

A broad overview of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, focusing on their real-world applications and investigative elements. There is an emphasis on practical skills, data collection, analysis, and the use of scientific instruments, and a vocational approach with a more hands-on and vocational style of learning compared to traditional A Levels.

The course consists of five units:

- Fundamentals of science
- Science in society
- Investigating science
- Analytical techniques in chemistry
- Forensic biology

Assessment

Fundamentals of Science and Science in Society are externally assessed through exams. The remainder of the extended certificate is internally assessed assignments based on research and practical work.

Career pathways

The course equips students with the skills and knowledge to progress to university courses in fields like psychology, forensics, bBiological sciences, biomedicine and health.

Employment opportunities: nursing (or allied health professions), food science, scientist, medical technician, paramedic, nurse, food technologist, or forensic scientist.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 5 in GCSE Combined Science or Triple Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Art and Design
Extended Certificate

What is the course about?

This course is designed to give students the knowledge and understanding of visual communication and the creative process enabling them to develop their own creative voice. Students will develop an understanding of the importance and influence of the work of artists and designers to develop and realise their own creative intentions. They produce a portfolio of art and design work in areas such as textiles, photography, fine art and 3D design; each unit based on a different art and design theme to cover a wide range of different art design materials, techniques and processes.

Course content

Different practices to include some of the following:

- Visual recording and communication
- Critical and contextual studies in art and design
- Photographic materials, techniques and processes
- Fine art materials, techniques and processes
- 3D design materials, techniques and processes
- The creative process
- Textiles materials, techniques and processes

Assessment

It will be assessed through a combination of assignments and projects; each unit will be based on a different art and design theme.

External assessment is 58% with internal coursework of 42%.

Career pathways

Study art and design related degree courses at higher education. The course is the equivalent to one A Level.

Employment opportunities: photographer, junior digital imaging technician, design assistant, technical illustrator, stylist, trainee pattern cutter and visual merchandiser.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE.

A portfolio of work may further support your application.

BUSINESS STUDIES
EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

What is the course about?

This course is for students interested in developing the knowledge and skills required for employment and for the community as a whole. It's also about developing the behaviours and attributes needed to progress and succeed in education and in work. It is an ideal foundation for both entering the workplace or going into university, providing students with a theoretical background together with practical skills that transfer into the modern workplace and give them a competitive advantage.

Course content

The course covers the following key business topics:

- Human resources
- Marketing
- Business decisions
- Working in business
- Customers and communication

Assessment

It will be assessed through both internal and external assessments.

Career pathways

Study business-related degree courses at higher education. The course carries up to a maximum of 56 UCAS Tariff points.

Employment opportunities: accountancy, advertising, banking, investment and financial services, general management, HR/personnel, management consultancy, public relations and retail management.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE.

Creative Digital Media Production
Extended Certificate

What is the course about?

This course is for students interested in gaining knowledge and understanding of creative digital media production and developing an understanding of how to work within the media industries. They choose the area they wish to follow in a variety of different media, e.g. in film, television and radio or interactive publishing and media or digital games.

Course content

Study of the following will be included:

- Media representations
- Digital media skills
- Magazine production
- Film production
- Pre-production portfolio
- Responding to a commission

Assessment

There are three mandatory units, two of which are externally assessed; plus one optional unit chosen by the learners. It will be assessed through both internal and external assessments.

Career pathways

Study media related degree courses at higher education. The course carries up to a maximum of 56 UCAS Tariff points.

Employment opportunities: journalism, marketing, film making, banking, law, publishing, broadcasting, television, video and multimedia, media research, political research or speech writing.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE.

Information Technology

Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ)

What is the course about?

The qualification allows students to study IT to gain comprehensive knowledge, which will allow them to specialise with breadth and depth into more specialist and cutting edge job roles across the IT sectors and beyond.

Course content

Units in this qualification include:

- Information Technology systems
- Relational database development
- Cyber security and incident management
- Website development

Assessment

The students will be assessed in examination format, in a practical way and through coursework projects. It will be assessed through both internal and external assessments which include synoptic projects.

Career pathways

Study IT related degree courses at higher education. The course carries up to a maximum of 56 UCAS Tariff points.

Employment opportunities: IT technical support, database administrator, field technician, network technician, infrastructure technician, network planner, network engineer, junior digital content developer, 3D graphics technician, virtual reality software technician, software developer, digital identity planners or digital content developers.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE.

PERFORMING ARTS

OCR CAMBRIDGE TECHNICAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

What is the course about?

This course is for students interested in developing their Performing Arts knowledge, skills and techniques. The OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in Performing Arts comprises of exciting and relevant content that is current, engaging, fit for purpose and suitable for the needs of all Performing Arts students. As it is a vocational course, the emphasis is on developing and using the skills practically in order to better understand the process of creating performance work and working with others.

Course content

You must complete FIVE units of work during the course. You choose which area(s) you wish to specialise in. This specialism might remain the same throughout the course (Music, for example) or could change for different units, so you could combine a range of skills and specialisms if you choose to.

- Prepare to work in the performing arts sector
- Proposal for commissioning a brief
- Influential performance practice
- Combined arts
- Improvisation

Assessment

The course is assessed through a combination of assignments and projects. Each unit consists of practical work reinforced by a written portfolio. Three of the units are assessed by your teachers and two are externally assessed.

There is no written exam in this course.

Career pathways

The performing arts course will develop your skills and knowledge in preparation for further study or the workplace. It is equivalent to one A level, with a Distinction * grade worth 56 points, the same UCAS points as an A grade at A level. You will also gain a range of transferable skills that all employers value such as creativity, problem-solving and team work.

Employment opportunities: performer, teacher, designer, technician, studio engineer, choreographer, musician, film or TV work, director, entertainment manager.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE and a grade 6 distinction in Music, Drama or similar.

SPORTS STUDIES
EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

What is the course about?

The course covers a wide variety of topics related to sports and the sports industry. Practical participation and coaching in sport are included within the course. It will allow students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding to deliver sport and physical activity to an individual or group of participants; plus identify those who would benefit most from participation, select which sport or physical activity would be best for them, and how to organise, co-ordinate and facilitate different events or programmes of activity that allow people to actively engage in and enjoy sport and physical activity.

Course content

Units of study include:

- Body systems and the effects of physical activity
- Sports coaching and activity leadership activity
- Organisation of sports events
- Sports organisation and development
- Sports injuries and rehabilitation

Assessment

It will be assessed through both internal and external assessments.

Career pathways

Study sport-related degree courses at higher education. The course carries up to a maximum of 56 UCAS Tariff points.

Employment opportunities: sport development officer, community sport officer, senior sports coach, senior activity leader, sports coaching, sports physiotherapy, leisure centre management.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 4 to 9 grades at GCSE.

ART
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

In this course, students will explore fine art, including a variety of themes looking at portraiture, landscape still life, abstraction human form, narrative or experimental imagery. These areas can be combined using a range of mixed media. During this course, students will develop their capacity for independent working. Students are free to explore both traditional methods and digital techniques within their work.

Course content

The study of fine art through:

- Shape and texture
- Contextual study
- Personal response
- Externally set assignment

Assessment

Coursework including a portfolio of practical work to include a related study of a minimum of 1000 words. 60% of the total.

Externally set task, examined in 15 hours. 40% of the total.

Career pathways

Study art related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: architecture, fashion design, art therapist, illustrator, print maker, jewellery designer, interior designer, graphic designer, textile designer, museum curator.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Art.

A portfolio of work may further support your application.

BIOLOGY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

Biology covers a wide range of topics, from investigating the molecular and cellular functioning of living organisms to the interactions between populations and whole communities of animals and plants.

Students will gain a strong understanding of biological concepts but also develop the skills to describe, explain, predict and analyse the biotic and abiotic factors which influence the world.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- Biological molecules, DNA, cells and the immune system exchange and transport, genes, genetic diversity and biodiversity.
- Detailed study of photosynthesis, respiration, energy transfer in ecosystems.
- In-depth analysis of inheritance, gene expression and the development and application of gene technology.
- Homeostasis, muscles, the nervous system, and whole organism biology including taxis, population biology and ecosystem ecology

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals and a residential field course.

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

Career pathways

Study biology or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: agriculture, ecology, zoology, plant sciences, biotechnology, food science, and marine biology, research into cancer cures, or conservation of endangered animals.

Entry criteria

Minimum requirement of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at a grade 6 in GCSE Biology.

CHEMISTRY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course is designed to answer questions about the basic and complex make up of our known universe and the world we live in, the concept that we are all matter made from stars and when broken down in to their elements can be studied to develop an in-depth knowledge and recognition of patterns that can be applied to everyday life. The course allows students the opportunity to explore the nature of the periodic table whilst beginning to understand the three major disciplines that make up foundation chemistry. They are physical, organic and inorganic chemistry, all three of which have major applications in industry and academia. Chemistry students become confident in describing the natural and modern world around them through the understanding and explanation of the subject.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- Organic, inorganic and physical chemistry
- Bonding, structure, kinetics, basic spectroscopy and energetics
- Exploring chemistry of polymers, proteins, further energetics, electrochemistry, spectroscopy, acids and bases and transition metals

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

Career pathways

Study chemistry or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: agrochemical, biochemical, pharmaceuticals, engineering, nursing, medicinal chemistry, medicine, academics.

Entry criteria

Minimum requirement of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at a grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry.

Computer Science
A Level

What is the course about?

Studying computer science at A Level enables learners to develop an understanding of and ability to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. Computer science is a practical subject where learners can apply the academic principles learned in the classroom to real world systems.

Course content

Computer Systems (01):

- Characteristics of contemporary processors, input, output and storage devices
- Software and software development
- Exchanging data
- Data types, data structures and algorithms
- Legal, moral, cultural and ethical issues

Algorithms and Programming (02):

- Elements of computational thinking
- Problem solving and programming
- Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms

Programming Project (03):

- Students choose a computing problem to work through, covering:
- Analysis of the problem
- Design of the solution
- Developing the solution
- Evaluation

Assessment

Two terminal examinations form 80% of the total.

1 Non-Examination Assessment worth 20%.

Career pathways

Students can go on to study a computer science-related degree including a wide range of more focused options such as cyber security, software development etc.
Alternatively, students are able to progress directly to apprenticeships including for example software engineer, cyber security analyst, systems analyst, data scientist, database administrator, video game designer, artificial intelligence engineer.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 GCSE in Computer Science or Mathematics.

English Language
A Level

What is the course about?

English Language provides students with the chance to comprehensively study a variety of different writing styles and techniques, as well as offering you the chance to develop your own writing skills.

The English Language A Level enables students to explore how language is used, develops and helps create identity, how language is used differently based on gender, age or sexuality. Accents and dialects are also explored examining attitudes to spoken language. Other aspects of language such as child language development and language change are also studied. For example, how did we move from the language of Shakespeare to new additions to the dictionary such as 'whatevs' and 'sumfin'?

Course content

Topics include:

- Language, the individual and society
- Children's language development
- Spoken, written or multimodal language
- Language diversity and change:
- Language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions

Assessment

Two terminal examinations worth 80% of the A Level.

Non-exam assessment worth 20%.

Career pathways

Study an English-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: advertising copywriter, arts administrator, editor, writer, media advisor, librarian, lawyer, human resources.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE including at least grade 6 in English Language.

English Literature
A Level

What is the course about?

Taking English Literature is a perfect choice for any student with a passion for reading widely, be it poetry, plays or prose. English Literature will provide students with the chance to comprehensively study a wide range of texts from various authors around the world, both modern and historic in context.

Course content

Studies include:

- Literary genres
- Different literary texts (drama, poetry and prose)
- Critical anthology (highlighting the ideas of Marxism and feminism)
- Texts and genres
- Shakespeare text

Assessment

Two terminal examinations worth 80% of the A Level.

Non-exam assessment worth 20%.

Career pathways

Study an English-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities : advertising copywriter, arts administrator, editor, writer, media advisor, librarian, lawyer, human resources.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Environmental Science
A Level

What is the course about?

Environmental Science is a highly relevant A Level for anyone interested in the environmental concerns of our time. It covers many aspects of the environment from climate change to water quality.

Students who enjoy a multi-disciplinary approach to learning and have a keen interest in the sustainability of our planet will find this course engaging and thought provoking. Key topics include the biophysical environment, energy resources, pollution and sustainability. With opportunities to include real life case studies, this contemporary qualification has never been more relevant.

This is a great accompaniment to A Levels in geography, sciences and maths and develops key skills including communication, teamwork and critical thinking.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- The living and physical environments.
- Detailed study of energy resources and pollution.
- In-depth analysis of biological resources and sustainability.
- Key skill development in research methods.

There is an important focus on working scientifically with opportunities for skills development and independent thinking; skills related to the methodologies and sampling techniques that students must gain through first-hand experience and skills related to research methods that can be gained through class-based and/or practical activities.

Assessment

Two terminal examinations.

Career pathways

Study environmental science, biology or geography related degree courses at higher education. High level apprenticeships in relevant sectors (e.g. conservation, the water sector).

Employment opportunities: environmental scientist, environmental law, zoologist, marine biologist, conservation, scientist, hydrologist, environmental engineer.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 6 in Biology or Geography.

FRENCH
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

Course content

Topics to be studied include:

- French social issues and trends
- French artistic culture
- French political issues
- Specific topic areas of cinema and literature
- In-depth study of a text and a film

Assessment

Three terminal examinations including listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Career pathways

Study language-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: interpreter, teacher, translator, journalist, international aid worker, tourism.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least a grade 6 in GCSE French.

GEOGRAPHY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course is for students with an interest in issues affecting people and places where they live and how places are changing. The hazards facing the planet and people are also studied. Students will study current events and world problems, such as the effects of natural hazards, global warming, migration and the plight of refugees.

Course content

There are four areas of study over the two years:

- Dynamic landscapes – including tectonic hazards and coastal landscapes
- Dynamic places – including globalisation and regenerating places
- Physical systems and sustainability - including water and energy insecurity
- Human systems and geopolitics – including superpowers and migration identity and sovereignty

There are also exciting field trip opportunities to Swanage in Dorset and an extended trip to Iceland.

Assessment

Three terminal examinations form 80% of the total.

Non-exam assessment worth 20% in the form of an Independent Investigation based on field work.

Career pathways

Study geography, geology or environmental related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: management. leisure, administration, travel, business, tourism, environmental management, urban or land use planning, hazard management and planning .

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Geography.

HISTORY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

Students will study significant individuals, societies, events and developments within a broad historical context. Investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues. Students will also analyse and evaluate how the past has been interpreted and represented in different ways.

Course content

Study of the following will be included:

- England 1377-1455: Enquiry topic Richard II, 1377-99. (Examination 25% of A Level)
- The Crusades and the Crusader States, 1095-1192. (Examination 15% of A Level)
- The Middle East, 1908-2011, The Ottomans to the Arab Spring. (Examination 40% of A Level)
- Independent Study: Civil Rights in the USA ,1865-1965. (Non-exam assessment 20% of A Level)

Assessment

Three terminal examinations form 80% of the total.

Non-exam assessment worth 20%.

Career pathways

Study history-related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: journalism, law, publishing, the media, archaeology, museum, teaching and archive work.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least a grade 6 in History.

MATHEMATICS
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

A Level Mathematics gives students the opportunity to study topics such as geometry, calculus and trigonometry (pure mathematics) and to use these ideas within the 'applied' topics such as mechanics and statistics.

Course content

- **Pure Mathematics – ** mathematical argument, problem solving, proof, algebra, graphs, sequences, logarithms, trigonometry, calculus, functions, numerical methods, vectors and differential equations
- **Statistics –** working with a large data set to make inferences about the underlying population, probability calculations, using the Binomial and Normal distributions and statistical hypothesis testing
- **Mechanics –** kinematics, working with forces and Newton's laws, motion under gravity, friction, projectiles and simple moments

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Career pathways

Study maths, engineering, physic related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: analyst, actuary, accountancy, scientist, statistician, systems developer.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 GCSE in Mathematics.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS A LEVEL

What is the course about?

Further Mathematics should be considered as an addition to Mathematics A Level. There is a misconception that Further Mathematics A Level is harder than A Level Mathematics, but generally that is not the case. This course is perfect for students particularly interested in mathematics or physics and love a challenge.

Course content

- **Core pure mathematics – proof, complex numbers, matrices, further algebra and functions, further calculus, further vectors, polar coordinates, differential equations and hyperbolic functions**
- **Optional units** including mechanics, decisions and further pure Mathematics

Assessment

Four terminal examinations.

Career pathways

Study a degree course with a mathematics content, e.g. mathematics, statistics, physics, engineering, computer science.

Employment opportunities: mathematics in security – working to keep one step ahead of the hackers!, mathematics in telecommunication and the internet – traffic jams on the information superhighway, mathematics in the environment – better weather forecasting, better conservation management, mathematics of finance and economics – buy! Sell! Mathematics on the stock market, when to take a risk?

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics and you must also be studying Mathematics A Level.

Media Studies
A Level

What is the course about?

This course is for students interested in the rapidly developing world of media, in an ever changing contemporary world. We are surrounded by media every day and cannot avoid it. From moving image to broadcast, print and new digital media, we have access to media at all times and are increasingly reliant upon it. The A Level course is constructed to include elements of practical media production and theoretical analysis, which will provide insights into this ever-changing contemporary landscape.

Course content

Topics include:

- Media representation – the ways in which people, places and events are presented within different media products, and how this communicates meaning.
- Media language – concerning how the different aspects and conventions of a variety of media products convey meaning.
- Media audience – how and why audiences may interpret aspects of media products in different ways and how these interpretations can inform production.
- Media industry – how and why media products are created, including budgets, pre-production, production and manufacture.

Assessment

Two terminal assessments worth 70% of the total.

Non-assessment worth 30%.

Career pathways

Study media studies, media and communication, and other media related courses at University.

Employment opportunities: journalism, marketing, film making, banking, law, publishing, broadcasting, media production, TV, video and multimedia, game development, website development etc.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or Language.

PHOTOGRAPHY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course aims to develop the creative photographer. Students will learn technical skills and how to use camera to control contrast, exposure and focus. They will study photographers – both modern and historical.

Course content

The study of photography through:

- Shape and texture
- Contextual study
- Personal response
- Externally set assignment

Assessment

Coursework including a portfolio of practical work to include a related study of a minimum of 1000 words. 60% of the total.

Externally set task, examined in 15 hours. 40% of the total.

Career pathways

Study a design-based related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: graphic designer, magazine photographer, medical illustrator, photographer, journalism, television camera operator.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least grade 6 in GCSE Art or Photography.

A portfolio of work may further support your application.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course will provide an insight into sports performance. Students will have the opportunity to perform or coach a sport but also develop a wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity.

Course content

The course encompasses topics such as:

- Exercise physiology
- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Biomechanics
- Skill acquisition
- Sports psychology
- Sport and society
- Contemporary issues in physical activity and sport

Assessment

Three terminal examinations totalling 70%.

Non-exam assessment in the performance or coaching of one practical activity and the evaluation and analysis of performance for improvement worth 30%.

Career pathways

Study sport and health related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: teaching, coaching, the leisure industry, recreational management, the health and fitness industry and professional sport.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE including at least a grade 6 in GCSE Science/PE or biology and actively engaged in sporting performance or coaching at club level.

PHYSICS
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

Physics encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us, and the world beyond us. It is the most basic and fundamental science. By studying physics students learn the basis of many other sciences, including chemistry, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- Matter and antimatter, discovering how quarks and antiquarks combine and interact, researching up to the minute discoveries from cern, and other particle accelerators
- The consideration of whether particles can also be waves, investigating the interference patterns, and properties of waves
- Electricity and mechanics
- The mechanics of particles in gases and interactions between charged particles
- Nuclear physics,
- Optional topic of astrophysics, electronics, engineering or turning points in physics

There is an important focus on developing practical skills with students needing to complete a series of 12 required practicals.

Assessment

Three terminal exams.

Successful completion of a series of practical activities will lead to the student being awarded a practical endorsement to the A Level.

Career pathways

Study physics, maths or science related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: engineering, electronics, astrophysics, particle physics, medical physics, biomechanics and nuclear physics. Research into solving the energy crisis, or discovering what atoms are made of using particle accelerators.

Entry criteria

You have a minimum of Level 6-6 at GCSE for Science and 6 for GCSE Mathematics (also preferably taking A Level Mathematics).

POLITICS
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

Students will study the political systems of the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition to learning about the political institutions of these countries, students will also be learning about political ideas such as conservatism, liberalism and socialism as well as the beliefs of political thinkers like Marcus Garvey, Rosa Luxemburg and John Locke.

Course content

Students study topics including:

- Government of the UK, including the British Constitution, role of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- The politics of the UK including democracy, elections and referendums, political parties and pressure groups.
- The government and politics of the USA, including the constitution, role of Congress, the President, electoral process, political parties and pressure groups.
- Political ideas including liberalism, conservatism and socialism.

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Career pathways

Study political, law or history related degree courses at higher education.

Employment opportunities: politics, journalism, law, management or Civil Service.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5-9 grades at GCSE, including at least a 6 in English.

PSYCHOLOGY
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

A Level Psychology involves studying a wide range of topics exploring the fascinating human mind. Psychology looks at the varying ways people think, behave and interact with others. We seek to understand why certain behaviours occur and the science that underpins the theories. Through investigations we discover how researchers conduct their studies, how they collect and analyse data and how their findings can be applied to 'real life'.

Course content

There are six 'core' topics which we will explore:

- Social influence
- Memory
- Attachment
- Psychopathology
- Approaches in psychology
- Research methods

Assessment

Three terminal examinations.

Career pathways

Students who study A Level Psychology often progress onto degrees such as psychology, English studies, sociology, business studies, teaching, sport and exercise science and law.

Employment opportunities include forensic psychology, clinical psychology, occupational therapy, nursing, teaching, social work, counsellor, educational psychologist and many more.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature or Language.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE)
A Level

What is the course about?

This course is about developing a greater understanding and appreciation of Christian religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and philosophy of religion. Learners will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments, and responses to religious, philosophical, and ethical ideas.

Course content

Philosophy of religion to include:

- Philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief.
- Arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience, and the problems of evil and suffering.
- Philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers.

Religion and ethics to include:

- The study of ethical language and thought.
- Ethical theory applied to issues such as euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

Developments in religious thought to include:

- A systematic study of one religious tradition – Christianity.
- The exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity.
- The ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

Assessment

Three terminal two-hour exams, one for each component.

Career pathways

Higher education degrees: religion, philosophy and ethics, theology/religious studies, philosophy, law, philosophy, politics, and economic history.

Directly-related careers: lawyer, religious leader, journalist, theologian, philosopher.

Importantly, RPE teaches you skills that will be useful in whatever job you go on to do. For example, it teaches you how to engage with others that you disagree with and how to form your own opinion and articulate it clearly.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including grade 6 in Religious Education/Studies.

SPANISH
A LEVEL

What is the course about?

This course allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where Spanish is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in Spanish.

Course content

Topics to be studied include:

- Aspects of Hispanic society social
- Artistic culture in the Hispanic work
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society
- Aspects of political life in Hispanic society
- Specific topic areas of cinema and literature
- In-depth study of a literary text and a film

Assessment

Three terminal examinations including listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Career pathways

Students who study A Level Spanish can progress onto language-related degree courses in higher education.

Employment opportunities: interpreter, teacher, translator, journalist, international aid worker, tourism.

Entry criteria

Minimum of five 5 to 9 grades at GCSE, including at least a grade 6 in GCSE Spanish.



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THERE IS SUCH A **CHOICE** OF ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES. I CHOSE PUBLIC SPEAKING, WHICH HAS GIVEN ME **TECHNIQUES** TO WRITE A SPEECH AND THE **CONFIDENCE** TO DELIVER IT.

YEAR 12 STUDENT

MATHEMATICS FOR LIFE

What is the course about?

This is an exciting new course that complements and supports core subject choices as well as providing life and employability skills. The course allows you to study Mathematics at Level 3 without having to commit to an entire A Level, the course gives you the same number of UCAS points as an AS Level and is highly regarded by universities and future employers. The course focuses on applied mathematics with no algebra or trigonometry.

Course content

- Financial mathematics
- Modelling
- Probabilities
- Risk analysis
- Cost benefit analysis

Assessment

The course lasts one year and is assessed in two external examinations in the summer, both 90 minutes long. Both examinations have preliminary material that is released in March where real-life examples of data and information are given to students that are then used as the basis of questions in the examination.

Career pathways

Mathematics for Life helps to develop mathematical skills and thinking and will support courses such as A Level Sciences and Geography as well as technical and vocational qualifications, such as Business Studies and ICT. The skills gained in this qualification will strengthen any future study or employment application.

Entry criteria

Grade 5 or above in GCSE Mathematics.


HOLMLEIGH PARK
HIGH SCHOOL
WE'RE CONSTANTLY **ENCOURAGED** TO STEP OUTSIDE OUR **COMFORT ZONE**.
YEAR 12 STUDENT

What Happens Next?

November 2026
Our application procedure opens from 19th November. The application form is accessed from the website:
www.hphigh.co.uk.

December 2026
We advise students to complete their application forms by Monday 14th December 2026 to have their choices included in the setting of option blocks. In addition, students can focus solely on their GCSEs and not have to worry about applying for our sixth form.

January to March 2027
Students will be invited to attend a interview and following, receive a conditional offer.

April 2027
Deadline for applications.

Summer 2027
GCSE final examination period.

July 2027
Holmleigh Park Sixth Form induction days.

August 2027
Following receipt of GCSE results, students enrol into the Sixth Form.

If you have any enquiries, or would like a tour of the school, please contact sixthform@hphigh.co.uk or by telephone 01452 393760.



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THE **GUIDANCE** AND **INSPIRATION** FROM TEACHERS **MOTIVATED** HER TO **AIM HIGH** AND PUSH FOR THOSE **TOP GRADES**.

YEAR 13 PARENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I still apply even if I've missed the application deadline?
Yes. Please send the form back as soon as possible so your details can be added to our system.

What happens if I'm unable to attend my enrolment day?
f you do not attend your enrolment day then we cannot guarantee we'll ɔe able to hold your place. Please email sixthform@hphigh.co.uk to liscuss.

My grades are lower than expected, can I still join Holmleigh Park Sixth Form?
We will discuss this with you on your enrolment day. It will depend on how low your grades are and what spaces we have available.

I'm new to Holmleigh Park Sixth Form, can I have a tour?
Yes - to arrange a tour, please email sixthform@hphigh.co.uk.

I want to change a subject choice on my application form?
Final decisions on your subject choices are made when you enrol with us in August.

You do not need to notify us unless you're changing a subject choice after you've enrolled with us in August.

How can I stay in touch with updates on the application procedure?
We recommend you check our website regularly for updates:

Website – www.hphigh.co.uk

HOLMLEIGH PARK

HOW TO APPLY

Thank you for your interest in applying to Holmleigh Park Sixth Form.

For more information on subject choices, and how to apply, please visit www.hphigh.co.uk

For further details, please contact our Sixth Form team.

HOLMLEIGH PARK SIXTH FORM

Holmleigh Road
Tuffley
Gloucestershire
GL4 0RT

01452 393760

sixthform@hphigh.co.uk

www.hphigh.co.uk

Proud to be part of the...

GREENSHAW LEARNING TRUST